(a) the details of institutes which have been granted the status of deemed university in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to streamline the procedure for granting deemed university status to certain institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The names of institutions of higher education, State-wise, that have been declared as deemed-to-be-universities, is enclosed as Statement. [Refer to the Statement appendid to the answer to USQ 955 Part (C).]

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission, which is responsible for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India, has constituted an Expert Committee to prepare draft regulations on deemed-to-be-universities. The Expert Committee has prepared draft UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2008 which are under consideration of the Commission in consultation with the stakeholders.

Law regarding right to education

969. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to enact a national law in the country, regarding the right to education , which is constitutionally guaranteed; and

(b) if not, the details as to how Government is going to address the issue of implementing the right to education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years by providing that "*the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine*", process has been initiated for enactment of suitable central legislation on Right to Education.

Performance of Mid-day Meal Scheme

970. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether the Scheme has reduced the school dropouts;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to extend the Scheme to the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information available hot, cooked Mid day Meal is being provided to all children studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government